

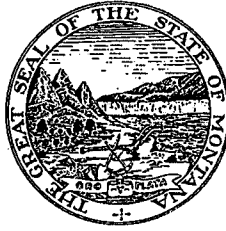
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF MONTANA

EXHIBIT 14

DATE 02/20/13

HB 477

Bill Gallagher, Chairman
Bob Lake, Vice Chairman
Kirk Bushman, Commissioner
Travis Kavulla, Commissioner
Roger Koopman, Commissioner



1701 Prospect Avenue
PO Box 202601
Helena, MT 59620-2601
Voice: 406.444.6199
Fax #: 406.444.7618
<http://psc.mt.gov>
E-Mail: psc_webmaster@mt.gov

February 20, 2013

TO: Members of the House FRET Committee
FROM: Montana Public Service Commission (406-444-6199)
RE: House Bill 477 – scheduled for hearing Wednesday, February 20

The Public Service Commission has taken no position on HB 477. However, the PSC wants to ensure that FRET Committee members are aware that regulated utilities are already subject to PSC requirements regarding disconnection notices. To assist the Committee in making an informed decision, the following is an explanation of the notice requirements currently in place for utilities regulated by the PSC:

- ARM 38.5.1405(2)(a) requires two written notices, followed by a day-prior contact, before a non-pay disconnect. That process takes 21 or more days.
- ARM 38.5.1405(2)(b) allows a regulated utility to terminate utility services upon serving written notice five business days prior to the proposed termination date when a customer either remits an insufficient funds check as payment to the utility after receiving the first notice of termination or breaks a payment arrangement. NorthWestern Energy was granted a waiver to make phone contact when possible rather than written notice in these cases.
- ARM 38.5.1407 allows disconnect without written notice if there is a condition immediately dangerous or hazardous to life, physical safety or property; upon order by any court, the Commission or any other duly authorized public authority; or if the service was obtained fraudulently or without authorization of the utility.

The Commission hopes this information is helpful to the committee in its consideration of this bill.